Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6 at line 19 with the following:

Subsequent to drying the initial layer, the intermediate, or stiffening, layer 26 is applied to the fabric. The stiffening layer comprises a resorcinol-formaldehyde resin solution (5-40%), an acrylic resin emulsion (1-10%), ammonia (0.1-2.0%), hexamethylenetetramine (0.1-5.0%), and water (43-93.8%). Alternatively, the stiffening layer may comprise a ~~The preferred mixture is 30%~~ phenol-formaldehyde resin solution (30%), ~~5%~~ an acrylic resin emulsion (5%), ~~1.3%~~ ammonia (1.3%), ~~2.0%~~ hexamethylenetetramine (2%), and ~~61.7%~~ water (61.7%). In lieu of acrylic resin, any suitable thermoplastic may be used. Similarly, a phenol-formaldehyde resin solution may be substituted for the resorcinol-formaldehyde resin solution. This is because the hexamethylenetetramine also releases formaldehyde into the mixture for cross-linking with the phenol-formaldehyde resin. Ammonia is part of the mixture for pH control purposes only and may eliminated, dependent upon the specific composition of the mixture. Following this application, the treated fabric is again heated until dry; however, care must be taken to control the temperature so that premature curing and stiffening of the fabric does not occur. This is well understood in the art, and for this material construction, a maximum temperature of 250 degrees Fahrenheit for a duration of one minute is sufficient; however, longer durations at lower temperatures will also provide equally satisfactory drying.